

STIGMATA

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THE PROJECT STIGMA REPORT ON THE CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE OCCURRENCE OF ANIMAL MUTILATIONS

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ANIMAL MUTILATIONS — 1983 & 1984

Our last full-fledged summary of mutilation reports covered the events of 1982 and appeared in STIGMATA No. 20 in 1983, so we have some catching up to do. Since the "up" year of 1980, mutilation reports have been sporadically consistent - mostly isolated reports with nothing remotely resembling the onslaught of the mid-1970's. Some of the recent reports are of high "classic" quality; there just aren't that many of them. No one geographical area can be said to have predominated over the last 2½ years, although some areas have generated more reports than other regions - the Tacoma-Seattle area, for instance, and southwestern South Dakota and Central and North Central Texas. The following is a summary of mutilation and potentially mutilation-related reports from 1983 and 1984:

1983

ARIZONA

Reporter Mary Frei of the Santa Fe bureau of the ALBUQUERQUE (N.Mex.) JOURNAL suggested we might want to talk to an agent of the Arizona Criminal Intelligence Agency in Tucson, as he had information regarding mutilations in the Tucson area in 1983. We caught agent Francis Karn virtually as he was preparing to clear out his desk. His agency was being phased out completely and he was to be re-assigned as an investigator for the Arizona Department of Public Safety. He knew of the apparent mutilation of three bulls in Pima County (the county of which Tucson is the seat), south of Tucson. All three animals died between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday of 1983. Two bulls were owned by one rancher, the third by another rancher. The first two were found approximately 100 yards apart and the third was about 200 yards from the second. They were laying in a straight line from northeast to southwest. The genitals, tongues and rectums had been removed from all three bulls. Unfortunately, Karn did not find out about all this until over a week later. However, one of the ranchers happened to be a personal friend of his and Karn vouched unequivocally for his credibility. As has been oft-repeated before, the rancher was most puzzled by the lack of normal or expected predation and scavenging on the carcasses. There are rumors of other mutilations in the Tucson area that have been investigated by law agencies, but no details have been forthcoming.

ARKANSAS

MID-FEBRUARY - GARLAND COUNTY (HOT SPRINGS AREA)

The remains of three dogs - apparently Doberman pinschers and between 3 to 5 months old - were found in a creek. The animals had been skinned completely, "like you skin a rabbit", and one appeared to have been shot, perhaps with a .22. Dog-skinning outbreaks crop up now and again in many areas across the country. Most likely, the pelts are shipped to Europe, say inves-

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tigators, from which they are shipped back to the Western Hemisphere as coats and stoles labeled as being from more exotic fur-bearers. (Source: THE SENTINEL; Hot Springs, Arkansas; 2-15-83; Credit: Pam Trumble)

JUNE 3 - PIKE COUNTY

Farmer Claude Lowery of the Langley area in northern Pike County found the carcass of one of his cows under a patch of trees (Pike County is best known as the site of the "Crater of Diamonds" in the southern part of the county). The cow was missing its left eye and the uterus, and the tongue had been apparently cut out. Investigating Deputy James Cogdell suspected the animal had been shot with a tranquilizer. Both Lowery and Cogdell were convinced it was the work of humans, not predatory animals. But...this was nothing new to Lowery. He had lost two other cattle to apparent mutilators back in mid-June of 1981. Reporter Tommy Jacques wrote in the county seat newspaper:

The first incident was discovered on June 14, 1981 as Lowery crossed his pasture during his morning check of his cattle. Checking the night before, Lowery had discovered no sick cattle. That morning he found one of his finer young cattle, a 400-lb. heifer yearling, dead with incisions and hunks of hide missing from its flank and abdomen, as well as a missing left eye. Two days later, after he had discovered another cow dead and mutilated, Lowery called the sheriff's office and a deputy was dispatched. The second cow was also missing its left eye, though it had no marks or cuts on the body. The deputy and Lowery proceeded to examine the cow further. "He thought she might have been shot in that eye so we took a meat saw and sawed the skull off and checked that out. She hadn't been shot". In their investigation, the two also found the cow's tongue had been removed and all of the animal's blood had seemingly been removed from its body. The sheriff's department kept watch for a week but whatever had occurred twice failed to occur again....

That is, until a little less than two years later. Reporter Jacques also wrote that Dr. James Cornelius of the diagnostic lab at the state veterinarian's office in Little Rock stated that, in his five years with the department, he had yet to give or hear of a diagnosis of an actual mutilation (of course, he didn't see any of these, either). It was reported that no tracks were found around any of the carcasses; this indicated to Cornelius that the animals' parts were removed by birds, likely buzzards. Lowery remained adamant that scavengers were not to blame, and he resolved to keep a closer watch on his herd. (Source: THE DIAMOND; Murfreesboro, Arkansas; 6-30-83; credit: Lucius Farish; UFO Newsclipping Service; Plumerville, AR)

CALIFORNIA

Not much was reported in California in 1983, compared to previous years, which saw a handful of reports from northern California and the furor caused in the Los Angeles area by 150 to 200 cat mutilations from 1976 through 1982 (see STIGMATA No. 20). 1983 saw mutilation events with a bit of a different twist: 22 pelicans near Monterey and 23 pelicans in San Diego and Orange Counties were the victims. Their pouches were slit, their windpipes smashed or their chests cut open (with a "three-pointed instrument"). (Source: DALLAS MORNING NEWS, 10-8-83)

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COLORADO

MAY 21 - WASHINGTON COUNTY

A ranching couple near Lindon discovered their third mutilated cow. They had suffered previous mutilations in June 1977 and October 1980. In the latest event, a neighbor reported seeing a helicopter over the pasture within one or two days of the discovery of the carcass. (Source: Linda Moulton Howe)

JUNE - ELBERT/EL PASO COUNTY

In the Ramah area, a rancher discovered the carcass of a 3-year-old heifer. Seeing the carcass from a distance, he thought it was a steer because he was unable to see an udder. The udder had been cleanly removed.

MID-AUGUST - ELBERT/EL PASO COUNTY

The same Ramah-area rancher who was struck in June lost another cow in August. The animal was seen alive and well on a Saturday afternoon and its carcass was discovered the following Monday. It was suspected that the 2-year-old cow had died on Saturday night-Sunday morning. As in June, the udder had been completely removed. (Source: Linda Moulton Howe)

NEBRASKA

APRIL 5 - SIOUX COUNTY

In the northwestern corner of Nebraska, a Harrison-area rancher discovered the carcass of a pregnant Hereford cow in the snow. According to a Scottsbluff, Nebraska, veterinarian, "skin covering the udder and proximal medial thigh was gone, upper lip and end of tongue was gone". The udder had been removed, leaving a gaping, roughly-triangular cavity and, as has been repeated in many other cases, patches of hide were removed from the belly near the naval (leaving a curiously-symmetrical wound not unlike a Rorschach test). (Source: Carol Werkmeister; Study On Animal Mutilations; Madison, Nebraska)

APRIL 16 - FRANKLIN COUNTY

On a ranch southwest of the South-central Nebraska town of Campbell, a 10-year-old pregnant cow was seen alive and well on Saturday after, April 16th. That night, as the family was watching "Saturday Night Live", their dogs began raising a ruckus. Unaccountably to the rancher, the family continued to sit and watch television instead of checking on the disturbance. The next day, Sunday the 17th, the 10-year-old cow was found dead and mutilated approximately a mile from the house. The cow was lying on its right side; the left eye was gone, as was the hide around about half of the jaw. Four teats were severed at the udder and there was a baseball-size hole below the tail where the anus appeared "cored out". The animal was bloated, and there was no blood in evidence, except for one patch of blood about one foot from the nose. The head had the appearance of having been "thrown back". There were no tracks in the area except for a clear round print the size of a half-dollar about 3 feet behind the carcass. The rancher pulled it near his front gate. Until it was picked up on April 20, no animals touched it. Having seen "A Strange Harvest", a neighbor notified producer Linda Howe. The rancher would discuss the case with no one, not even the sheriff. (Source: Linda M. Howe)

NEW MEXICO

MARCH 28 or 29 - RIO ARriba COUNTY, DULCE AREA

Where else but Rio Arriba County, one of the most frequently and consistently hit counties in the US - and who else but Dulce rancher Manuel Gomez, one of the most oft-victimized ranchers in the country...Press reports indicated that this March 1983 mutilation was the tenth suffered by Gomez's herd; our count would place it at 11; but that's quibbling; most ranchers are struck only once by mutilators. Gomez has been on the mutilators' "list" since 1976. In this instance, the cow was found on pasture behind the Gomez residence and general store, and near the family cemetery. Gomez and investigating State Police Officer Gabe Valdez estimated that the cow had probably died late on the night of March 28 or early on the 29th. Only the animal's udder had been removed "with a sharp instrument". But with a difference: whatever instrument had been used left a "scalloped" pattern around the incision, similar to the "pinking shears" effect reported in other mutilation cases (see STIGMATA No.21,p.4). Valdez reported that there were bruises on the left rear and front legs; he speculated the animal might have been dragged (tracks or ground markings could not be discerned, as copious mud surrounded the site). Valdez also reported that the back appeared broken. (Source: RIO GRANDE SUN;Española,NM; 4-28-83)

MID-MAY - LEA COUNTY

Near Hobbs in the southeastern corner of New Mexico, a livestock inspector for the State Livestock Board lost a bull or steer to mutilators. The penis and anus were missing, with no further details forthcoming. The inspector made it a point to call Gabe Valdez in Dulce. He explained that he had previously been most critical of Valdez and of the allegations of "classic" mutilations, but he apologized as a result of his first-hand experience. (Source: State Police Officer Gabe Valdez)

JUNE 12 - SANDOVAL COUNTY

Another female bovine was discovered 3½ miles north of the town of Cuba, which lies near the southern extremity of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation (Dulce, in Rio Arriba County, sits near the northern end of the same reservation). State Police Officer Mike Avilucea investigated. The cow's udder had been removed "with a sharp instrument", with no bleeding in evidence. Avilucea reported that the cow's 30-day-old calf was found alive next to its mother. The calf had apparently been fed within the previous 24 hours. (Sources: RIO GRANDE SUN,6-23-85; ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL,6-1783)

JUNE 14 OR 15 - RIO ARriba COUNTY

A mutilated yearling steer was discovered on the Lobo Lodge property, north of Chama (Chama is about 25 miles east of Dulce). The investigator was Livestock Inspector Jim Byrd, no stranger to mute probes. This one, though, he found to be different - it was the first steer to have been mutilated, at least in the Chama Valley. According to Byrd, all the other victims had been cows or bulls - animals capable of reproduction. Approximately one-half of the animal's penis was taken, as with a "razor-sharp instrument".

A 4 to 6-inch-diameter circle of hide was cut from the belly. The steer was estimated to have been dead for about a day. In this case, it appeared that scavenging birds had picked at the eyes and the tongue. There were no signs that coyotes, bears or other mammals had approached or bothered the carcass. (Sources: RIO GRANDE SUN, 6-23-83; ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL, 6-17-83; Gabe Valdez, New Mexico State Police)

JUNE 24 - RIO ARriba COUNTY

The third and last known or reported mutilation in the county in 1983 (not including the Sandoval County case, which was almost in Rio Arriba County). A cow belonging to Arnold Vigil, a member of the Jicarilla Apache tribe, was discovered dead in a pasture 10 miles east of the "Gasbuggy site" (and about 20 miles south of Dulce). "Gasbuggy" is the site of a 1968 underground nuclear explosion - actually a series of detonations conducted by the now-defunct Atomic Energy Commission. It's purpose was to determine if the explosions would help stimulate the production of natural gas. Vigil's cow was found on the 24th but was thought to have died on about the 22nd. The udder and anus of the four-year-old animal was reported to have been removed with "precision", and one ear appeared sliced off. The other cows in the herd of about 50 were quietly grazing around the carcass when it was discovered. (Source: RIO GRANDE SUN, 7-7-83)

OKLAHOMA

NOVEMBER 13 - BRYAN COUNTY

The carcass of a bull was discovered on the 13th in farmer Buddy Tomme's pasture; it was thought to have died two days earlier. Investigating Deputy Robert Crumley reported that the animal appeared to have been shot with a high-powered rifle. The genitals, the tongue and one eye were reported missing, and it was thought some blood might have been removed. According to Crumley, 10 similar cases had been reported in the county in the preceding year. District Attorney Larry Grant was "leery" of calling it a mutilation without knowing for sure (he hadn't seen it, apparently), but he expressed confidence in Deputy Crumley's observations. The undersheriff, John Newcomb, said, yes, mutilations had occurred, but he was skeptical of the suggestion that the incidents might be related to cult activities. "It's odd", he said. "It makes you wonder. I don't know about this other - people dancin' naked on the creek bank and all that". (Source: DAILY OKLAHOMAN, Oklahoma City, 11-18-83)

OREGON

APRIL 24 - CLACKAMAS COUNTY

In the summer of 1981, Mrs. Jackie Carignan of Eagle Creek, Oregon, found a cow of hers that had been missing both eyes, the udder, vagina and the heart(!). Like the family in Franklin County, Nebraska, Mrs. Carignan sat in the house as her dogs and the neighbor dogs barked and carried on, and she didn't get up for a look. Later, she considered herself fortunate that she did not come upon mutilators at work on her cow ("I wouldn't give you two cents for your life if you came upon those people during one of their

rituals"). Mrs. Carignan and the sheriff's department suspected cultists. The mutilation-wounds on the 5-year-old Guernsey-Angus female bovine found in 1983 were not "as neat" as those on the cow in 1981. Mrs. Carignan had no doubt, however, that other-than-natural causes were to blame. The cow, found 200 yards behind the barn, was missing only its udder. The animal was last seen alive and well on the 20th. That night her dogs periodically kept her awake. (Source: Mrs. Jackie Carignan; Eagle Creek, Oregon)

OCTOBER 29 - CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Another mutilation in northern Clackamas County (just south and east of the Portland metro area), this time near the community of Sandy. The victim was a 9-month-old heifer owned by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Herrell. They found the carcass in their pasture as they returned home from a camping trip on Sunday afternoon, the 30th. The ears and teats had been severed. The animal had apparently been hit on the back of the head with a blunt instrument. The OREGONIAN (Portland) reported that...

Neighbors told the Herrells that they had seen the animal lying in the field early Sunday morning. Its bawling mother had attempted several times to nudge the dead heifer to its feet, they said. The mutilation could have been part of a cult ritual, said Sheriff's Deputy Jim Munsey. Formerly assigned to the sheriff's Animal Control Unit, which recently was disbanded due to budget cuts, Munsey said he has investigated several animal mutilations in the county. Munsey said the mutilation on the Herrell farm was particularly daring because the pasture is easily seen from several neighbors' homes. Usually, mutilations occur in isolated fields or in wooded areas, he added.... "The mutilations are done by professionals. There is no blood, no hack job. It looks like it's been done by a skillful surgeon", he said. "Often there will be the remains of a fire in close proximity to the kill, indicating there was some sort of ceremony", Munsey said. No evidence of a fire was found near the Herrell's heifer. A rash of animal mutilations occurred in East Clackamas County about six years ago and have occurred infrequently since then, he said. Because the mutilations often happen at night, neighbors rarely see or hear anything, Munsey said. (Sources: PORTLAND OREGONIAN, 11-1-83; OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE-COURIER, 11-2-83; Credit: Donald Boates; Lucius Farish, UFO Newsclipping Service)

TENNESSEE

NOVEMBER 20 - STEWART COUNTY

In the Land Between The Lakes recreation area near the Kentucky border, the carcasses of 25 farm animals were found along a road. Authorities in the nearby county seat of Dover did not know who dumped the carcasses - or why. According to the Associated Press:

"It's very weird", Stewart County sheriff's deputy Ian Smith said this week. "There were two piles of animals located about 200 yards apart. One pile has probably been there about a week and a half and the other about three or four days". The animals, including horses, ponies, pigs, calves, bulls, cows, burros and goats, were discovered by hunters Sunday in the 170,000-acre federal recreation area that stretches between Kentucky and Tennessee. "It appears

that the animals were dead when they were loaded. We found no bullet wounds", Smith said. "We don't know who did it or why, but we hope that ear tags that we found on some of the animals will help us determine where they came from." (Source: PRESS HERALD;Portland Maine;11-24-83; Credit: Loren Coleman)

TEXAS

DALLAS COUNTY

During the first few weeks of 1983, there was news coverage and much public concern in the suburb of Carrollton in north Dallas County over mysterious small pet deaths and a "high animal mortality rate in the area". A group of Carrollton residents organized a "Save Our Pets" committee and petitioned the city council for aid in solving the pet deaths. The group's door-to-door survey of about 30 homes in south Carrollton turned up "some 50-odd" reports over the preceding 5 years of pets dying under "mysterious circumstances, or in seizures or convulsions". The citizen's group and a veterinarian, Dr. Belza Gordon, believed the animals were poisoned. City health officials conducted their own door-to-door survey of 57 homes and reported they found only 27 unexplained animal deaths. Assistant City Manager Jack Eades said autopsies were conducted in five of those cases. Two autopsies were incomplete and, in the other 3 cases, no evidence of poisoning was found. Then, in February 1983, City Manager Clonis Luallen told the press that two dogs died after ingesting sodium monofluoroacetate, an odorless, colorless "rat poison", a substance considered to be "a potential chemical warfare tool". (Sources: DALLAS MORNING NEWS, 1-3-83; DAILY OKLAHOMAN (Okla.City), 2-17-83)

FEBRUARY 9 - JEFFERSON COUNTY

In Beaumont, Texas, a woman on her way to a union hall noticed the apparently headless body of a cow in a pasture by the road. She knew the cow's owner was Johnny Holley, owner of a wrecking yard and carburetor shop, and she called to tell him about the cow. The cow was last seen alive on the night of Monday, the 7th, when Holley fed hay to his herd. The cow had indeed been decapitated and split open at the belly. The BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE reported:

When Holley arrived at his 70-acre pasture on Sulphur and Cardinal Drive, directly across from Gladys City, he found not only the cow, but also a newborn calf the cow had apparently delivered during the night. "She'd just had this calf when they did it", Holley said later in the day, struggling with a gangly heifer calf he was attempting to bottle-feed at his garage. "The mother's body was still warm and the calf was still wet". Under normal circumstances, a heifer would immediately lick the afterbirth off her newborn "until it was dry", Holley said. "This one was still wet. That must have been the way they got ahold of her. She was down having her calf. Can you believe anybody could be that cruel?"

The cow's head had a 5-inch cut between the eyes. Holley thinks she was probably hit there first to stun or kill her. "They must have kind of pulled her neck around the tree to cut the head off. It wasn't easy to do. You could see where they hacked at it with an ax", he said. The head looked as if the neck was chopped off at the base of the skull. At the scene, ax marks and some blood were visible on the trunk of a tree. Several veterinarians said they could remember no instance

of a similar incident occurring in this area in the recent past. Holley said in the past people have stolen cows from him and shot his cattle. "I've even had 'em cut a hindquarter off and leave the rest. But I've never seen anything like this", he said, shaking his head. Holley said none of the cow's body parts was missing. The corpse was not otherwise mutilated. "They went to all this trouble and they didn't take a thing", he said. Admitting it may sound bizarre, Holley said he thinks whoever killed the mother cow was after her blood. "When you cut an animal in the neck, the blood is going to shoot out", he said. "There was hardly any blood out there". (Source: BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE, 2-9-83; Credit: Scott Parker)

MARCH 15 - CAMERON COUNTY

Around 7:00 PM that evening, a "huge", silent flying object - tube-shaped, with a yellow-green light on top - was seen over the Harlingen area in extreme southern Texas (an area best-known in Fortean circles for the "Big Bird" reports of the mid-seventies - and a number of classic livestock mutilations have occurred there over the past decade). A man named Muniz saw the object hovering over his barn in the Combes area. The next day, he found that one of his horses was missing. Convinced there was a connection, he began reporting to his pasture every night thereafter, prepared to confront any additional intruders with a shotgun. Also, a mutilated calf was found in the same area, near Primera, the next morning, according to a radio news report. The eyes and genitals had been removed from the calf. It was also reported to have been "drained of blood". A woman who saw the UFO in the Combes area reportedly suffered a virtual "nervous breakdown" immediately thereafter, and she was refusing to discuss the incident. (Sources: Robert Gribble, Eleanor Galt)

JUNE, JULY - GRAYSON COUNTY

On a farm west of Sherman in North Central Texas, George and Sally Myatt reported a number of animal deaths over a period of several weeks. The victims - including a Palomino colt, a cat and several chickens - had been variously killed, cut open and disemboweled. The Myatts didn't report any of the deaths until late July, when they discovered a deep wound on their dog's neck. The date of the cat's death was not cited, but Grayson County Sheriff Jack Driscoll reported that his deputies said the cat had been killed by an animal. "It definitely had not been mutilated or gutted", said Driscoll. Apparent teeth marks were found on the cat's neck. The cat did not belong to the Myatts, but it was found near their backdoor. The SHERMAN DEMOCRAT reported:

The investigation further showed that the chickens were probably victims of the summer heat, the sheriff said. The dog's injury was actually only a patch of missing hair, he added. As for the dead horse, Myatt said it disappeared from the farm the same day in June that he discovered it lying disemboweled in a field. Myatt said a second colt also disappeared soon after it was born....The Myatts...maintain the animals weren't killed by other animals and that they have reported some of the incidents to authorities. "It's all very strange", Myatt said. Mrs. Myatt said the night the dog was injured, she heard strange music and chanting near a barn behind their home and saw lights on around the barn. The

couple said they have had problems in the past with people drinking in the barn and have found evidence of marijuana there. The sheriff said he knew of no cult activity in the county, but that his department will continue to investigate the Myatt's claim. (Source: SHERMAN DEMOCRAT, July 31, 1983)

MARCH-JULY - DALLAS COUNTY

In Southern Dallas County - at the opposite end of the county from Carrollton - 8 horses were sexually mutilated and killed, leading to considerable uproar among animal owners and widespread news coverage of the incidents.

Police say the killers used tool handles and pipe to sexually mutilate the horses, inflicting internal injuries. All the killings have occurred on brightly moonlit nights...Dallas police investigator E.E. Carol said police have no leads in the case. "There's just nothing we've got to go on". Investigators initially believed revenge might be the motive, because the first two attacks occurred at a far South Dallas farm leased by two men, Carol said. "But with this second victim, it's just a whole new ball of wax", he said.

In the first attack, March 30, someone killed a Belgian mare at a stable at 7800 South R.L. Thornton Freeway. The horse was mutilated internally with a plastic pipe. A dog belonging to the mare's owner, Robert Robertson of Oak Cliff, was found beaten to death with a shovel. On the night of April 30 at the same stable, four quarter horse mares were killed in the same way, this time with a hoe and a pitchfork handle. Robertson's partner, Jack Chestnut of Red Oak, said the two have moved all their mares to a safer pasture. In the third incident, someone used straw to lure the mare and filly from a pasture into the Brown's barn at 8025 S. Hampton Road, police said.

(Clayton) Brown, who was unable to move the severely-injured filly, said he spent several nights standing guard at the barn with a shotgun. "Coming up and finding your mare dead in the barn and all torn up inside is pretty painful", Brown said. "I've never heard of anything like this. There's just no purpose in it". Horse experts believe there must be more than one attacker but are unsure how they are killing the 1200-pound horses without being injured. "There's somebody involved that has to know something about horses", said Tom McLaughlin, a Cedar Hill veterinarian who performed autopsies on several of the mares. "I just don't know how they're doing it".

Obviously, these are not the "classic" mutilations that our investigation has been probing. The sexual penetration of the animals with foreign objects (leading to death from internal injuries) suggests a cult, a particularly deviant group of deviants. But there seemed to be no hard evidence suggesting cult involvement. The eighth horse-victim was found in a back yard in suburban Pleasant Grove on Friday, July 15th. According to veteran investigator Tommy Roy Blann, there were some differences in this case. According to the owner, William Watson, puncture marks were noted near the jugular vein and on the chest of the Appaloosa mare. The mare had been cut on the vagina and hemorrhaging of blood was noted around the left eye and ear. For some reason, the mare was somewhat quickly disposed of before an autopsy could be performed. Watson's fence had been cut with wire cutters, which were left at the scene. Watson described his case at a meeting of

over 100 angry south Dallas County horse owners on July 23, 1983. Many vowed to shoot first and ask questions later. Bill Watson, owner of the eighth horse, told the assemblage:

"I think they've been watching the farms before they hit. I don't know how they do it. I've got three dogs, and they didn't make a sound when they hit my place. The horse was only 100 feet away from the house, and we were home and didn't hear anything."

The horse owners, not satisfied with the police investigations, offered rewards totaling \$3000 for information leading to a solution of the case(s). (Sources: DALLAS TIMES HERALD, 7-10-83 and 7-24-83; HOUSTON CHRONICLE, 7-11-83; PARIS (TX) NEWS, 7-11-83; HOUSTON POST, 7-19-83; Credit: Tommy Roy Blann, John F. Schuessler)

SEPTEMBER - HARRIS COUNTY

Around three dozen animals - sheep and cattle - were being kept in a pen near Spring Branch High School in West Houston by members of the Future Farmers of America chapter at the school. The animals were being raised and groomed for contests. Over a three-week period in September, eleven sheep were killed, stabbed and mutilated. Five lambs were attacked in the first week. The SUBURBIA-REPORTER (Houston, Texas) reported on 9-21-83:

Four of the lambs had been mutilated and left to die while a fifth lamb had been badly beaten. "One had its throat cut, another had its ears cut off and one looked as if they had tried to skin it alive", said Dave Figari, deputy superintendent for administration...The school district had no leads in the slayings. All they know is the slaughter was done with a knife. Figari recalled a similar incident that occurred a few years ago when a calf had been found mutilated. After that incident the district installed a fence and barbed wire at a cost of \$25,000....The animals had only arrived at the farm on Monday and were attacked on Tuesday night.

Six more sheep were attacked on late Thursday, September 29 or early on the 30th. Four of them were replacements for some of those lost earlier in the month. Precinct 5 constable's Lt. George Huebner stated that around 30 other animals at the farm were unharmed. According to the HOUSTON POST(10-1-83):

Huebner said the six sheep were mutilated between 10 p.m. Thursday, when students left the pen, and 8 a.m. Friday, when students arrived back at the pen. All the animals had stab wounds and bite marks - apparently made by a large dog - on and around their necks, the lieutenant said...in the latest mutilation, the attacker apparently scaled the pen's 7-foot fence with a dog. It had to have been a large dog "to cause that much damage" to the animals, Huebner said.

Understandably, students were reluctant to bring more animals to the facility. (SOURCES: SUBURBIA-REPORTER (Houston, TX), 9-21-83; HOUSTON POST, 10-1-83; THE TIMES (Shreveport-Bossier, LA), 10-2-85; SUNDAY TELEGRAM (Portland, Maine), 10-2-83; Credit: J.M. Buehring, John Schuessler, Loren Coleman)

OCTOBER 19 - FALLS COUNTY

Milton Albright, a Marlin-area rancher, came across a year-old Hereford lying on the ground. At first, he thought it was probably the victim of some

disease. After he and a friend had dismounted from their horses, they noted that the tongue had been cut out. About 8 inches of the tongue had been removed, and it was lying about ten inches from the cow's head. The body was still warm, so it had not been dead long. What shocked the observers most was that the right eye of the cow was also lying on the ground about twelve inches from the head (and near the severed tongue). The eye still had the optic nerve attached and was in perfect shape. There was no blood on the ground or on the eye or tongue. Milton Albright said he has seen all types of dead cattle and what predators can do, but this was the strangest thing he had seen in all his years of ranching. He took the carcass to a veterinarian in Chilton, Texas. The vet could find no natural causes responsible for the death of the cow, and was perplexed by the case. He could offer no explanation for the removal of the tongue and eye in that manner. (Credit: Tommy Roy Blann)

OCTOBER 29 - DALLAS COUNTY

In southeast Dallas County, a horse was found decapitated and with its genitals removed (it is not known whether the head remained at the scene). The horse's owner suspected cultist involvement, although the case differed from those in South Dallas County to the west. (Credit: Tommy Roy Blann)

NOVEMBER 30 - DALLAS COUNTY

In suburban Mesquite, southeast of Dallas, police found the remains of a cat and a dissected pig hanging from the walls of a boarded-up house on New-some Road. A partially-mutilated squirrel was found on the floor of the house and ostensibly satanic symbols were scrawled on the walls in red paint and blood - blood presumably from the mutilated animals. Painted on the outside of the house was "666 SATAN LIVES". On the inside, figures included a red star along with the letters "TEVIS". P. J. Flowers, president of the Dallas Horseman's Association, feels it is the work of a satanic cult, since he observed two hooded figures walking down a road in the same area. He felt that law enforcement agencies were not doing all they could in such cases. Bill Brown, a veteran reporter with WFAA-TV in Dallas (who once filed a series of reports on livestock mutilations) told investigator Tommy Roy Blann about the animals found in the house. Mesquite police had informed Blann that only jars of dissected animal parts were found in the house. (Credit: Tommy Roy Blann)

DECEMBER 31 - FREESTONE COUNTY

Several cows have reported been mutilated in the classic manner in the area around Fairfield, Texas. Farmers are reluctant to talk about them, even to law enforcement agencies. There have been reports of unidentified aircraft in the areas of some of the mutilations. One such aircraft was observed by Lee and Sheryl Marks, as it hovered over a field containing cattle. The object appeared to consist of two small white lights at the bottom with a larger pulsating white light at a right angle at the top. The object moved slowly over the field and toward the cabin in which the witnesses were staying. It then back-tracked and moved up into the air, hovering over the tree tops. At its closest approach, they could hear what sounded like "an engine

idling off in the distance". The crafts lights went out and the craft apparently disappeared. No visible structure could be discerned behind the lights. (Credit: Tommy Roy Blann)

WASHINGTON

APRIL 1 - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

(Have to beware of reports on that date) - Law enforcement officers in Snohomish County, north of Seattle, reportedly investigated a case involving a missing horse. No details. (Credit: Linda Williford)

APRIL 6 - PIERCE COUNTY

Pierce County, of which Tacoma is the seat, has been the site of between 2 and 3-dozen horse mutilations over the past decade - prompting not only much concern on the part of horse owners and other citizens, but rare national news exposure on the ABC-TV Evening News in early 1985. In April, 1983, the EVERETT (WA) HERALD reported the following:

The skinned head of a horse found hanging in an abandoned building may have been left there by a group of teen-age Satan worshippers, a Pierce County sheriff's deputy said. The horse's head was found Wednesday (4-6-83) by a contractor who was inspecting the building near Sumner, about 10 miles east of Tacoma, to make a bid on a county contract to demolish the aging structure. The head was suspended upside-down by baling wire from the ceiling of a third-floor room. Sheriff's deputy Michael Reed, who is investigating the case, said deputies believe the horse probably died from natural causes or was obtained from a rendering plant or butcher shop....There was no blood in or around the building and no other body parts were found, Reed said. Deputies were concerned that the horse's head might have been related to a series of horse mutilations over the past several years in the county...Reed said he believed they were unrelated to the current case. The eyes, brain and flesh of the horse's head were intact, although the head had been skinned. It apparently had been dead about a month. Slogans were scrawled across the walls in red paint - "666" and other references to the devil, "Anti-Christ Demon Crusader", and other names of some rock groups that have taken on occult meanings...A small group of teens meet (in the house) regularly for satanic worship, the deputy said.

A number of similarities surfaced among events in Pierce County, Washington and Dallas County, Texas (though the "m.o." in the horse mutes differ somewhat). We assume that authorities in both locales have traded notes, as it were. (Source: EVERETT HERALD, 4-10-83; Credit: Ed Austin)

MID-JUNE - PEND OREILLE COUNTY

In this county in the extreme northeastern corner of Washington, a steer belonging to a man named Boyd Graham was reportedly mutilated. No details, except that the steer was supposedly still alive when discovered. (Source: NEWPORT (WA) MINER, 7-7-83; Credit: P.Guttilla via L. Farish/UFONS)

1984

COLORADO

APRIL 11 - MORGAN COUNTY

Near sundown, rancher Kenneth Knight found the carcass of a three-year-old pregnant cow in a pasture behind his farm house near Brush, Colorado. The cow was lying on her side in the dry grassy pasture near a watery draw. The cow had apparently given birth shortly before it died; the calf was found alive and unmarked, laying about 150 yards from its mother's carcass. The calf later died; it is not known just why. The head and front part of the dead cow was untouched, except for a small hole in the neck. A press report indicates that officials suspected an injection. The cow's udder had been removed, leaving a smooth, even-edged wound. The tissue across the cut was white; there was no evidence of bleeding. The vagina and anus were removed leaving a six-inch-wide, deep hole. When the cow was turned over, entrails spilled out of the opening. A veterinarian looked at the cow but had no explanation for what had happened. The animal lay undisturbed by scavengers for two days, before being picked up by a removal service. This was Knight's first mutilation. About 2 or 3 years previously, a neighbor, a woman, was scared out of her ranchhouse by a high frequency sound. She left the house and drove to town to escape it. When she later returned, she reported finding a mutilated cow in her corral, according to Knight. (Source: THE DENVER POST, 4-13-84; Credit: Linda Moulton Howe (interview with Knight))

OCTOBER 22 - LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

The citizenry of Trinidad and expansive Las Animas County in Southern Colorado are no strangers to mutilation reports and the peripheral phenomena which sometime "go with the territory". Lou Girodo, the chief investigator for the district attorney's office in Trinidad, not only has pondered the mutilation mystery close-at-hand for the past decade, but he grew up on a ranch, as well. Girodo has gained a reputation for commenting on the mutilation problem in a forthright manner, as viewers of "A Strange Harvest" can attest. Girodo told THE DENVER POST in March 1985 that "most city folks think we are kind of crazy when we talk about spaceships in relation to cattle mutilations." He added: "I'm not saying it is (spaceships), but you prove to me it isn't. There is something out there". POST reporter Kit Mini-clier's coverage in March 1985 was prompted by revelations regarding a cattle mutilation case that had occurred in Las Animas County back in October of 1984. Project Stigma has obtained a copy of investigator Girodo's report on the case. The rancher involved is named Myron Scott, who ranches in the plains country east of Interstate Highway 25 and north of Trinidad. The victim was an 800-lb. yearling Hereford steer. Girodo's report is reproduced as follows:

On Friday, October 19, 1984 at approx. 2:00 PM, Myron Scott released several head of cattle into a pasture north of Trinidad and east of I-25. That same evening at approx. 8:30 PM, Myron Scott was feeding his horses when he noticed two white, bright pulsating lights hovering about 100 feet above the ground. The lights appeared to be 4 feet from each other at the same height and were

pulsating simultaneously. Myron knocked on the kitchen window and called his wife, Kathie's, attention to them. For approx. 15 minutes, while Myron was feeding his horses, the lights remained in the same position and area. When Myron finished (with) his horses, he went into his mobile home and the lights were still there. He described them as airplane lights that didn't move. He also stated that there was no sound. It was a clear, calm night, 40°, scattered clouds, winds at 03 knots, northeasterly. The moon was in its last quarter.

At approx. the same date and time, Myron's mother, who resides approx. 1 mile north of Myron, heard her dogs barking. The dogs usually bark when coyotes howl. She turned her outside yard lights on but did not hear or see a coyote. She turned the lights off, but the dogs continued to bark for approx. 15 minutes. She thought this to be unusual.

On Monday, October 22, 1984, at approx. 4:00 PM, Myron Scott was on horseback attempting to gather some of the cattle which he intended to ship to La Junta for sale on Tues., October 23, 1984. He stated that he could not get near the animals due to the fact that they were too spooky. Several horses are kept in the same pasture and run up to Myron when he is in the pasture. On this particular day the horses broke and ran from him. Myron felt this behavior on the part of the cattle and horses was very unusual.

On Monday, October 22, 1984, at approx. 7:25 PM, Myron Scott called the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office and requested that a deputy come out to his ranch the next morning and take a look at a dead animal. He stated to Deputy Bob Mooney that he had a mutilated steer - that he had never seen anything like it before. The left jaw had been peeled and cleaned free of hide and meat to the bone & the tongue had been cut out. The hide had been rolled, like a newspaper, from the rear of the animal almost up to the shoulders. Scott had to unroll the hide to check the brand on it. Scott brands his stock on the left hip. After doing this, Myron Scott found that the steer had his brand on it. Scott also discovered that the stomach, genitals and intestines were missing.

On Tues., October 23, 1984, this investigator and Dep. Carl Veltri of the L.A. C.S.O. drove out to the Scott place but no one was around so we drove to the Glenn Scott ranch. Mr. Scott advised us that his son, Myron, had to take care of some cattle and he had no idea when Myron would return. Glenn Scott had not been out to the pasture to see the dead steer, but he gave us directions to the steer's location. He requested that we stop at the ranch house on our way out and talk with him about our findings.

Dep. Veltri and this investigator then drove into the pasture, attempting to locate the dead steer. As we drove through the pasture, several head of horses and cattle broke and ran from our vehicle at a galloping pace. This seemed unusual to us due to the fact that Myron Scott told us that when he drove through the pasture in his pickup, the animals, both cattle and horses, would run towards the pickup, thinking that he was going to spread feed for them.

After searching the pasture for approx. an hour, we located the dead animal lying on the side of a small hill. The carcass was lying on the northwest side of the hill with the head pointing in an easterly direction and the legs pointing in a northerly direction.

Dep. Veltri parked his vehicle on top of the hill, south and approx. 50 ft. from the carcass. We then checked the immediate area for any possible human footprints and/or vehicle tracks. The only thing we found were horse tracks and one set of human tracks. These were made by Myron Scott and the horse he was riding the day before. We also noticed coyote tracks which circled the carcass at approx. 20 ft. away. None of the tracks approached the carcass. This investigator then checked the area around the carcass and the carcass itself with a geiger counter. The readings were normal except for the immediate area of the head of the dead animal where a slight reading was registered on the meter and a slight response on the earpiece of the geiger counter.

The animal was laying on its right side. The hide had been peeled away from the left jaw and all the muscle was gone. The jawbone was completely void of hair, hide or tissue. The left horn was broken loose but not completely off. A patch of hide, approx. six inches in circumference and located about midway between the horns and behind them, had the hair worn away. An area approx. 20" in diameter and oval-shaped located on the back of the animal, above the shoulders, had the hair rubbed off. The hind quarters had been stripped of flesh and the hide was laying loosely over the skeletal remains. Myron Scott had stated that when he found the steer it was in a similar condition except the hide, starting at the rump, had been neatly rolled, like a newspaper, all the way up to the shoulders. An intermittent trail of blood led from the head of the steer for approx. 15 ft. in a southerly direction. There was no indication in the area that the animal had stumbled before coming to rest. Nor was there any indication that the animal had struggled.

After thoroughly checking the area again and taking several pictures, Dep. Veltri and this investigator left the scene. We drove to the Glenn Scott ranch where we met Myron Scott. At this time Myron advised us of dates and times concerning the steer. It was then when he also advised us of the lights.

At approx. 3:00 PM the same day I personally contacted Dr. Aaroe, DVM at his office. I advised him of the situation concerning the dead steer and asked if he would be interested in going out to the Scott ranch to look at the animal. On Wednesday, Oct. 24 at approx. 11:00 AM, this investigator, along with deputies Bob Aguilar and Bill Musselwhite of the L.A.C.S.O. picked up Dr. Aaroe at his office and drove to the Glenn Scott ranch. We drove to the site of the dead animal. Dep. Aguilar drove up to approx. 20 feet from the carcass. We all got out of the vehicle and I pointed out to the three men what I had viewed the previous day. Dr. Aaroe then began his examination of the dead animal. He first checked the head and neck of the animal. He then checked the rest of the carcass. He then turned the animal onto its back. He pointed out that both horns were loose but not broken off. He also pointed out the worn spot located behind the horns. He stated that it appeared as though a rope or something similar had been placed around the steer's horns, and that the loose horns and the rub mark would indicate that the animal had been dragged. After further examination, the doctor stated that several bones in the pelvic area had been broken. It also appeared that the neck and shoulders had been broken. I asked the doctor what could have caused these broken bones. He replied that it appeared that someone had beaten the animal with a large sledge hammer. I then asked if it were possible that a

rope or similar apparatus could have been placed around the animal's horns and that the animal could have been lifted into the air. The doctor replied - Yes! This could have caused the rub spot and the loose horns.

Both the left and right sides of the animal were carefully examined by all of us. Neither side showed any evidence that the animal had been dragged. The face, nose and mouth were also carefully examined. None of the areas showed any evidence of the animal being dragged, such as dirt, rocks and/or plant growth. The front legs and hooves were examined and there was no evidence in these areas that the animal had been dragged, such as scratch marks on the hooves or wear marks on the legs.

We then began a spiral search of the area, beginning at the rear of the animal. We worked our way in a counter-clockwise movement at approx. 3-foot intervals. We worked this search method to approx. 50 feet from the animal. Nowhere within this complete area was there any evidence of anything being dragged to or from the area where the dead steer lay.

Approx. 15 feet south of the carcass, where the intermittent blood trail began, the ground appeared as though something had layed in the area. The earth was pressed down and plant growth had been pressed into the topsoil.

Taking all of the evidence into consideration, it was unanimously concluded that the animal had not been dragged to the spot where it lay but that it had been dropped there from a considerable height.

Investigator Girodo believes that other mutilations have occurred and have gone unreported because the ranchers who are victimized do not want to be laughed at. And, he told THE DENVER POST, "In other 'perfect' crimes, there is always a boy walking his dog, or a little old lady who provides the clue. That hasn't happened here". Also, Girodo was one of the earliest to ask publicly if it is conceivable that a mere human organization could have carried out what has apparently amounted to thousands of livestock mutilations with virtually total impunity, without making a careless mistake, without being captured or caught-in-the-act. (Sources: THE DENVER POST, 3-4-85; Lou Girodo, investigative report; Credit for both: David Perkins, Animal Mutilation Probe; Farisita, Colorado)

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH - WORCESTER COUNTY

At least 8 dogs - all German shepherds or part German shepherds - were discovered near the southern Massachusetts town of Dudley or in the French River. Five of the dogs were found on one weekend in mid-March. No details were offered regarding the type of "mutilation". A reward fund was established after the "bizarre series" of dog killings. (Source: USA TODAY, 3-19-84)

MISSOURI

AUGUST - FRANKLIN COUNTY

Talk among Franklin County farmers was of the mutilation of a cow 4 to 5

miles northwest of the town of Stanton, in about mid-August. The death of the cow, which was missing its udder and "lips", was apparently not reported officially. Area farmers say that 3 to 4 similar mutilations have occurred in the region over the last "couple of years". (Source:Hank Blair)

MONTANA

NOVEMBER 23 - CASCADE COUNTY

Cascade County - the site of some of the most publicized mutilation activity in the 1970's, along with mystery helicopters, Bigfoot-type creatures, and the UFOs reported over missile sites in the area. On the day after Thanksgiving, 1984, feedlot owner John Eustance found the remains of a 450-pound steer calf. Eustance had had two other bulls mutilated similarly in years past.

This time, Eustance said an ear had been cut off the skull with a neat round hole, both upper and lower lips were removed, the rectum was cut off with a round hole, and the calf's male organs were removed. He said the cuts were clean and appeared to have been made by a sharp knife. Eustance said there was no blood around the animal and that he could not figure out how it had been killed. He theorized that it may have been tranquilized.

The Cascade County Sheriff's office is investigating the incident. Sheriff Glenn Osborne said there is no reason to suspect the calf's death was anything other than normal. He said there were quite a number of similar incidents about 10 years ago when some cattle were killed and mutilated. Osborne said the department never determined what caused those deaths.

But this time, Osborne said there was a possibility that the calf died a natural death and some predators may have chewed the soft parts off the body. He said there is no cause for alarm - yet. "If we start getting a series of them again, we'll react to them and try to determine what the heck's doing them", he said. (Source: GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE, 12-3-84;Credit: James R. Leming)

NEBRASKA

JULY 19 - MADISON COUNTY

On July 18, at about 3:00 PM, cattle were put into a pasture a mile off US Highway 81 near the town of Madison. Around noon on the 19th, the owner discovered the carcass of a 600-pound steer calf. A 4-to-5-inch-diameter circular patch of hide was missing around the navel; flesh underneath was not touched. The penis had been removed "from quite a way inside". On the head, swelling was noted just behind the cheeks. The examining veterinarian found the swelling to be from hemorrhaging from a blow to the head with something like a sledgehammer - a 2x4 would not have done it. The owner figured the calf had not been dead more than twelve hours when discovered. He wondered how anyone had gotten close enough to the calf to have struck the skull-crushing blow. The animal was not tame and was in fact somewhat "spooky". (Source: Carol Werkmeister; Study on Animal Mutilations; Madison, Nebraska)

NEW MEXICO

For the first time since 1975, there was no known livestock mutilation case reported in New Mexico (that was not to be the case in 1985). Could it be that coyotes, buzzards and their cronies took the year off? Or maybe they tried going vegetarian in 1984.

NORTH DAKOTA

SECOND QUARTER, APRIL-JUNE - WARD COUNTY

On Wednesday, June 13, a man in Ward County, about 15 miles southwest of Minot, was checking his herd when he found the carcass of a Hereford calf. There was no obvious sign of death and no marks on the animal, except for the left ear having been cut off. The Ward County Sheriff, Arthur Anderson, revealed that, since April, two other calves had been found dead when one ear sliced off. Anderson said: "It's really a strange case. It's just the idea that they were dead, and there were no bullet holes, just the ears cut off clean". On Friday, June 15, a Minot man found his registered filly quarter horse dead in a pasture, with a slip-knotted rope around its neck. There was no known or obvious connection, however, between the horse death and the calf-ear-slicings. (Sources: MINOT DAILY NEWS, 6-14-84, 6-16-84; ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, 6-16-84; Credit: Linda Moulton Howe)

OHIO

DECEMBER - UNION COUNTY

A series of animal slayings were under investigation by the sheriff's office and the local humane society in the town of Marysville, just northwest of the Columbus metropolitan area. Included in the killings were 2 mass slayings in which the carcasses were found neatly stacked. The victims included more than 32 dogs and cats and 76 chickens as of mid-December 1984. More would be heard from the Union County area in 1985. (Source: USA TODAY, 12-19-84)

OKLAHOMA

JUNE - BRYAN COUNTY

Authorities announced that they were investigating two cases of slain cattle, and that one of the animals was apparently mutilated. On Thursday, June 21, near the community of Platter, in south-central Oklahoma, a cow valued at \$1000 had been shot, but no mutilation of the carcass was reported. But the Bryan County sheriff's office announced that a cow had been killed on Sat., June 9, near Cobb, north of the county seat of Durant. The cow, belonging to James DaVault, was reported as "shot and partially cut up", with an ear and other body parts removed unnaturally. The sheriff's office reported that the animal had been shot in the eye. However, owner DaVault told Project Stigma that the eyes were both intact, that there was no evidence of it having been shot in the eye. (Sources: DAILY OKLAHOMAN(Okla.City), 6-26-84; James DaVault)

OREGON

JUNE 24 - UNION COUNTY

In northeastern Oregon, an area prone to mutilation reports in years past, a 3-month-old calf was found about halfway between Baker and La Grande. The animal's carcass was found early on Sunday morning, the 24th. A neighbor found it and notified the owner, Vivian Crook. Reporter Mel Coulter of the La Grande OBSERVER wrote:

Dennis Patterson, who manages Crook's ranch west of Interstate 84, wasn't able to follow up on the report until about 2 p.m. What he found at the scene still has him baffled. The 300-pound beefmaster cross was in the middle of a 550-acre pasture with about 100 mother/calf pairs. The dead animal was resting with all four legs tucked under it. There was no indication of how it died, but sex organs had been removed with precision and the tail was missing.

"I think it was a heavy drug of some kind", speculated the ranch manager about the cause of death. He found no signs of a wound or bullet hole when he examined the carcass. And there was no blood, either on the ground or still in the calf, leading him to believe the blood had been drained before the calf was slaughtered. The removal of the sex organs is puzzling, he said. Cuts were made with surgical precision using an extremely sharp instrument. "Whatever they took it (the organs) out with, was pretty sharp. The cuts were extremely clean". No wild animals could have made cuts like that, he insists. There were no vehicle tracks or footprints in the area. The easiest access to the area is by walking 2½ miles from Wolf Creek Reservoir. The pasture is surrounded by barbed wire fence, which apparently was not damaged. A double-locked gate on the upper end of the property also appeared to be intact.

Bob Lund, a game enforcement officer for the Oregon State Police, investigated the incident and took hair samples for analysis by the state crime laboratory. He was unable to determine the cause of death but said the cuts were too neat for a wild animal.

Patterson also is puzzled about the reactions of other animals to the dead calf. Normally, the mother cow will stay close to her offspring and other cows will investigate it out of curiosity. But Patterson reported all the cattle are keeping their distance. Predatory birds or coyotes will usually start feeding on the carcass within a short time. But that hasn't happened either, he reported.

Vivian Crook, who had owned the ranch for about four years, reported that one of her dogs had been barking shortly before dawn on Sunday. Reporter Coulter wrote an accompanying article in which Union County cases from years past were recalled:

Ronnie Pratt, who operates a ranch at the base of Shaw Mountain, 16 miles south of La Grande, reported two animals killed and Gerald Dudek lost one animal under circumstances similar to the one last weekend. Ronnie's wife Carol said the first incident occurred about eight years ago when a mature Angus cow was killed on their ranch. Someone apparently removed the udder and reproductive organs from the cow. The Pratt's cow was found in a large field on its back with the

feet straight in the air. There was no blood, and organs apparently were removed with a surgeon's skill, said Carol Pratt. As with the (Patterson/Crook) calf, other cattle in the pasture refused to go near the Pratt's dead cow. She guesses the animal may have been tranquillized and then rolled onto its back and suffocated. When cows lie on their backs, organs press against the diaphragm causing suffocation. That leaves no trace of slaughtering, she said.

Reports of cattle mutilation aren't uncommon, insists La Grande veterinarian Mace Schram. He has investigated many suspicious deaths and found most claims of mutilation to be unfounded. He confirmed that Pratt's cow had been killed and mutilated, however. "I don't know what really caused it...I'm just at a loss", he said. Schram said he knows of no predatory animals that take just reproductive organs. And he knows of no commercial value or special uses they might have for humans.

Pratt insists there are many mutilations that are not reported because there is a tendency for disbelief. If a rancher reports a mutilation once, chances are he'll never report another one because nothing is ever done, she said. (Sources: THE OBSERVER (La Grande,OR), 6-30-84; THE DEMOCRAT-HERALD (Baker,OR), 7-2-84; THE OREGONIAN (Portland), 6-26-84; Credit: Donald Boates)

NOVEMBER - BAKER COUNTY

Baker County is located just south and east of La Grande and Union County in northeastern Oregon. In November another Baker newspaper, the RECORD-COURIER, reported:

There have been no livestock mutilations. This is the conclusion of Deputy sheriff Bud Newby after several incidents were reported and investigation followed. Specimens from three dead cattle in the Sparta country and one in the valley are in the laboratory to determine the cause of death.

However, the presence of vultures explains the mutilation, said Deputy Newby. It happened that one of his own cows had gotten down, its feet up, and died of bloat. It was still warm when discovered but when the scavenger birds were driven off the udder was nearly gone, the lines as sharp as if cut by a knife, he noted. This was similar to the mutilation of other animals he had under investigation. However, in those cases the laboratory will have to determine the cause of death. (Source: RECORD-COURIER; Baker, OR; 11-29-84; Credit: Lucius Farish, UFO Newsclipping Service)

SOUTH DAKOTA

There is much to report from southwestern South Dakota in 1984. This is the subject of our "Special Focus" section to follow below.

TEXAS

FEBRUARY - GREGG COUNTY

A mutilation account with a different twist in a county which saw several

mutilation and mystery helicopter reports in 1975. An 18-month-old polled Hereford cow was reportedly cut in half on a farm along state highway 149. The front half of the animal was discovered near a barn, covered with brush. The bottom part was found about 200 yards away in some underbrush. (Source: Longview, Texas MORNING JOURNAL, Feb. 28, 1984)

NOVEMBER 27 - TAYLOR COUNTY

On the northern outskirts of Abilene, Texas, a near-yearling calf, valued at \$300, was found with its "birth canal sliced and its tongue and one ear cut cleanly off". The animal was found by Bob Freeman, who operates the ranch for the owner, land developer Bailey Choate. Choate was struck by the similarity between this case and livestock mutilations which had occurred in the area several years ago. Abilene police Sgt. Roger Dickey said, "It was too smooth a cut. It was done with a very sharp instrument". According to the Abilene REPORTER-NEWS:

Choate said he is extremely puzzled. He pointed to the calf's body and said, "Notice there's no sign of a scuffle, no pawing of the ground. In the middle of the back, there's a small wound where she might have been shot with a dart or something". He said the calf would not have let someone walk up near it "so it had to be shot with something at a distance".

"There's no blood anywhere", he said. The right ear was removed flush with the skull as clean as if it had been done in a butcher shop. The flesh and skin around the right jaw were removed several inches around the teeth in a symmetrical, oval shape. Inside the mouth, the tongue was also cut out cleanly.

According to Freeman, a veterinarian who looked at the carcass declared it drained of blood. And "the word" among ranchers was that another cattle mutilation had occurred near Abilene around the time of this case. (Sources: REPORTER-NEWS; Abilene, TX; Nov. 29, 1984; Bob Freeman)

DECEMBER 21 - GRAYSON COUNTY

We'll call them the Newmans - a husband and wife, both schoolteachers in Sherman in Grayson County, in north-central Texas bordering Oklahoma and Lake Texoma. They lived in a ranch house in a rural area about 10 miles north of Whitesboro, Texas and about 2 miles south of Lake Texoma. They raised Arabian horses and they had a number of dogs on the property. One day in the late spring or early summer of 1982, the Newmans returned home from school one afternoon to find their Doberman pinscher behaving strangely or out-of-sorts. Examining the dog, they found an area on the side that appeared to have been "shaven" clean of hair. In the center of the shaven area, which was several inches across, was a small circular hole, about one-half-inch deep. There was no bleeding or drainage from the hole. The dog recovered. At around this time - and the exact date is not recalled - another event occurred which left the conservative, salt-of-the-earth Texans shaken. The Newmans were asleep one night in their rural home when Mrs. Newman, normally a light sleeper anyway, was awakened by a "whirring noise". Through a window she could see a brilliant light which appeared to be either flashing or rotating. She got up from the bed but went no further, taken aback by the intensity of the light. Without looking at the bed, she reached around behind

her to shake her husband and awaken him. Quite the antithesis of his wife, Mr. Newman was a "heavy" sleeper. Mrs. Newman turned to the bed to shake him again. It was then she saw that her husband was lying on his back with both eyes wide open. Still, she could get no response from him, even after shaking him violently. After perhaps five - but no more than 10 - minutes, both the light and the incessant whirring sound had ceased or moved away. She looked again at her husband to see him turn over and seem to sleep soundly. This time, when she shook him, he awoke. He said that he remembered the light and the sound - he was aware of what was happening - but he absolutely could not move or speak. When the sound and light ceased, he felt suddenly very relaxed and slipped into sleep right away.

Then - the incident of December 21, 1984. The Newmans kept a 3-year-old Arabian stallion in a corral on their property. Mr. Newman was in the habit of feeding and checking the horse each morning before leaving for school and each evening after returning home. All had been well on this particular morning. But that evening, Mr. Newman could tell that the stallion was acting strangely - not going through its usual prefeeding mannerisms. He was running, jumping and kicking. When Newman went to feed him, instead of running to the trough, the horse rose up on his hind legs, pawing the air and snorting. It was then that Newman could see something on the horse's chest. After the stallion eventually calmed down, the chest could be examined. Noted was a hairless area, roughly circular and about 6 inches in diameter. The area had the appearance of having been clean-shaven, just like on the dog two years previously. It did not have the appearance of hair having been rubbed off as the animal rubbed against something in the corral. In the center of the shaven area - and again much as on the Doberman pinscher - there was a round hole in the flesh, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and perhaps as much as 1 inch deep. The wound was virtually identical to the one on the dog (except for size), in that there was no bleeding or discharge from the wound. There was a difference, however: the hide just at the edge of the hole appeared burned or singed. Mr. Newman searched the corral but could find nothing upon which the horse might have injured itself, and there was no sign of blood or hair in the corral. Later, a veterinarian looked at the horse. The equine specialist tried to explain it as something like a "heat blister" that came to a head and just "popped out". But no such blister - or anything else unusual - was noted on the horse that morning, just a few hours previously. The stallion recovered from the wound and eventually resumed normal behavior.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Circles of stone and a howling in the woods...In early 1985 more news surfaced about possible "cult" activities in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, this time in Johnson County, just south of Fort Worth. Johnson County is another area in which sporadic animal mutilations have occurred since the mid-seventies. In the town of Burleson, a Mrs. Peterson reported seeing strange people about and hearing "howling in the nearby woods". Other residents of the area have heard the "howling". A shabbily-dressed young woman approached Ms. Peterson's house in October 1984. The woman had cuts on her forehead and under her eyes - perfectly spaced. She wanted in the house but Ms. Peterson refused. This and the unnerving night noises eventually prompted Ms. Peter-

son to move from the area. Though some area residents accused Ms. Peterson of imagining things, others felt she might have legitimate complaints. A non-denominational pastor, Gloria Gillespie, said parishioners had told her tales of cult rites in the hills near Burleson for 10 years. The occasional sexual mutilation of horses in the area periodically fueled the fires. As far as can be determined, these were not "mutilations" in the "classic" sense, in that usually objects like broom handles or pipe were forcibly introduced through the horse genitalia, causing internal injury and death. In the Burleson area, authorities have examined circles of stone, crosses and hexagrams formed of stones and dog skeletal remains which suggested a ritual. And, in August 1984 four teenagers reported being chased from the woods near south Burleson by men wearing brown robes. (Sources: DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Jan. 13, 1985; Gary Puckett, humane official and animal rights activist)

UTAH

JULY - DUCHESNE COUNTY

An apparently classic cattle mutilation was said to have been discovered on the weekend of July 28-29 about 30 miles northwest of Roosevelt, Utah. No details were available. (Source: Mark A. Uriarte)

VIRGINIA

APRIL - WASHINGTON COUNTY

The city of Bristol sits astride the Virginia-Tennessee border. During two weeks in April, 75 yellow cats were reported to have disappeared from Bristol and Washington County (VA). These were only the officially-reported disappearances. The actual number may have been greater, suggested a spokesperson for a local lost-and-found animal registry service. The missing felines ranged from alley cats to registered Persians, some long-hair and some short-hair, some male, some female - but all yellow. It was speculated that the cats may be headed into fur-market oblivion, where their pelts might be substituted or passed off as rabbit - or perhaps they were headed for a laboratory for some sensitive research - but why all yellows? (Source: SATURDAY OKLAHOMAN & TIMES (Okla.City,OK), April 21, 1984)

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER - PIERCE COUNTY

There was another round of news coverage of the continuing horse mutilations in Pierce County (primarily horses, but not exclusively-see following report). A story in the SEATTLE TIMES in October read, in part:

"They" have been mutilating animals in Pierce County for the last decade, and the big questions around here are who are "they" and why is it being done? A committee formed around horse ranchers, made up of 150 residents from Pierce and Thurston counties, is trying to find the answers to these questions. Just when the sexual mutilations started isn't know - it could have been as long as 15 years ago. But everyone seems to agree that more than one person is involved. One widespread story has it that three people in black hooded robes

were seen bent over a fallen horse before being chased off.

Included in the report was the account of a couple near Spanaway who found their 9-year-old registered Arabian mare dead near their barn in September of 1984. The horse was "sexually abused", although the wounds, in the opinion of a veterinarian, should not have been sufficient to have caused death (indeed, many of the Pierce County horses have survived the attacks in which all or part of their genitals were excised). The sheriff's office had logged 28 cases which they felt to be legitimate. As might be expected, many area horse owners believed the actual number to be 3 or 4 times that figure. (Sources: SEATTLE TIMES, Oct.8, 1984; Helen Foster)

OCTOBER 24 - KING COUNTY

The mutilated carcass of a cow was found just hours after it had given birth to a calf about 4 miles west of the community of Enumclaw, near the Pierce/King county line. A news report stated as follows:

The cow, an 18-month-old Hereford, was found dead in a pasture with its rectum, uterus, tongue and tips of three teats missing. The throat had been slashed, the apparent cause of death, and all of the animal's blood had been drained from the wound to its throat. An investigation of the animal was made by veterinarian Bob Engeset. In addition, incisions shaped like a half-moon were cut in the cow's ears and flesh on the lower jaw was cut away. Engeset said the incisions were made with an extremely sharp object by someone who had knowledge in such things.

Similarly, the sexual mutilations of 27 horses in rural Pierce County in recent years were "professionally done" by a person or persons using sharp instruments, said Gaylord Mattes of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. Mattes said he sees no similarities between those cases and the Enumclaw attack, mainly because (of) the different sexes of the male horse and female cow. Mrs. Karen Phillips, who operates the farm, said the mutilation of her cow was like those done by ritualistic cults...There are no definite suspects in the cases, said Mattes. He said the attack on the cow probably occurred at night, since it could have been seen during the day.

Mrs. Phillips said she checked the pregnant animal at 4 a.m. Wednesday and it hadn't given birth. At 2 p.m., "It didn't come up to eat with other cows, so I went looking for it", she said. She found it dead and mutilated, with its newborn calf at its side in a pasture. The calf was unharmed. The cow, valued at about \$1000 wasn't insured. "We might start insuring our cows now", Mrs. Phillips said. She is more watchful of her small herd that now numbers two bulls, two cows and two calves. "I'm keeping a loaded shotgun in the house", she said. (Source: ENUMCLAW COURIER-HERALD, November 1, 1984)

Focus On South Dakota

BY LINDA MOULTON HOWE (Documentary filmmaker; freelance writer) 0

In 1979-1980 I spent 9 months producing, writing, directing and editing a 75-minute documentary film about the animal mutilation mystery entitled A STRANGE HARVEST. The film was broadcast on KMGH-TV (CBS), Denver, Colorado, in May 1980. Since then I have stayed in con-

tact with ranchers and law enforcement about the unresolved mystery. The Jerry Grass family called me in the spring of 1984 about the following events and I talked at length with Clayton Merchen and Bennett County Deputy Sheriff Tom Jensen by phone.

Cattle mutilations and UFOs ... since the early 1970's there have been hundreds of reports about animals, especially cattle, cut up in bizarre ways throughout the United States, Canada and other parts of the world. UFOs got into the story because ranchers and law enforcement personnel kept seeing unexplained lights hovering over pastures.

Skeptics say there's nothing to it ... only magpies, foxes and other predators. But in a wave of mutilations and strange lights near Pine Ridge, South Dakota, families at the Jerry Grass and Clayton Merchen ranches know they're not dealing with simple coyotes.

The last week of January 1984, 19-year-old Alfred Grass started his chores in a pasture 8 miles from his family's ranchhouse. Tending cows is his life and he sees a lot of dead ones, but nothing like the one he saw that morning.

"She was a 4-year-old black cow, close to calvin'. I'd seen her alive the day before. But that morning I found her lying on her left side with half her right ear cut off straight across like with a razor blade. Her right eyeball was gone and on top of her nose someone had cut out a half-circle like the heel of a shoe, just the hide. Half her tongue was cut way and there was nothing left where her udder had been -- only an oval-shaped smooth cut like somebody had used a sharp razor. No blood anywhere and no tracks around her."

Similar descriptions can be read in old mutilation files at sheriff's offices from Montana to Texas, Washington to Pennsylvania.

Two days later, Alfred and a hired hand found another pregnant cow cut up pretty much like the first one.

Then on February 8, around 7:30 pm, the Grass' neighbors encountered strange lights. Clayton Merchen, his wife Sheila and his mother Margaret, were on their way to a local school board meeting when they saw an object in the sky that showed first one light, then two lights, then one light "as if whatever it was, was spinning around", said Clayton Merchen. The color of the light "was like a white spotlight; it looked like landing lights on a plane". The lights moved to a stop, hovering over a pasture. Clayton drove his pickup to about 1/4-mile from the object and then shut the motor off to listen. Almost simultaneously, the lights moved rapidly away. Clayton and his passengers heard "a whirring low roar sound, muffled like it was inside something. It lasted only a couple of seconds. Then we couldn't hear a thing."

But at this closer range Clayton could see a small red light in between the two bigger white lights "and when the white lights turned away there was 3 or 4 red flashing lights on what must have been the back of the thing".

A week later, on the morning on February 19, Alfred Grass found a third mutilated cow. That one was a pregnant 4-year-old, too, and was lying in soft moist ground. "There weren't any tracks at all", he said. "It looked like she'd just been layed down there on her side." The cow's right ear was cut off at the head, a "perfect circle one inch all the way around her right eye was cut away like somebody had used a cookie cutter and her eyeball was gone." The udder had been removed in a square kind of cut and a circular patch of hide had been cut away over the backbone.

February 27-29, the strange lights kept coming back. On the 27th around 10 pm, Clayton was in a pasture near his ranch trailerhouse working with a large spotlight to check for calving cows. He saw moving white lights appear off to the west. He pointed his spotlight at them and flashed it a few times. As soon as he did, "those lights moved real fast toward me. Guess they came from 3 miles out to just about $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile from me in a couple of seconds." Scared him. He took off for his house and had his wife and three kids go outside to watch as the lights took off and then reappeared over a nearby hill.

The next night Clayton's daughter and cousin were driving home when the lights appeared behind, above and in front of the moving pickup. "They were scared to death and called me from their grandmother's", said Clayton. "But the lights were gone by the time I got there."

On February 29th, David Brewer from the Pine Ridge Bureau of Indian Affairs drove out to the Merchen's place, curious about what was happening. From $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile away he watched Clayton drive through a pasture and saw lights appear over a ridge. Clayton flashed his spotlight. "It scared the hell out of me the way that thing came toward us", said Brewer. "It stopped about 1000 yards away, 400-500 feet up. It moved a little unstable like a kite. But it looked like a light on a helicopter."

On March 6, two law enforcement officers from Martin, South Dakota, followed up the sightings with a stakeout of their own. "We were curious about who was going to such expense, especially in the awful winter cold, to make a farce with these lights. We didn't take it very seriously. We stopped and got some popcorn and pop on the way out. Wish now we'd had a camera and binoculars."

Clayton Merchen had told them that the lights usually appeared around 10 pm near a particular dirt road. So the officers went there and parked in darkness to watch. It wasn't long before they noticed a bright light on the horizon. They got outside the car and watched. The light appeared to come closer and "split in two the way car lights will as they approach". The lights were white and the one on the left was brighter than the one on the right. In between was a flashing red light about half the size of the white lights. The object moved up parallel with their car about 100 yards away and "maybe 100 feet up. The strangest thing is that the lights shining at us did not give off any halo like car lights. It was as if the light was in some kind of tunnel not touching anything. The light never illuminated the ground, the car, us or anything. Never saw such lights and there was no sound. I was spooked", said the deputy.

The object suddenly turned to the southeast and revealed four red lights "like car tail lights at the rear of a wide horseshoe shape, curving, and for about five seconds we could hear a muffled jet whine quite unlike anything I've heard before. Then silence again."

The officers called Ellsworth Air Force Base and talked to an air controller with radar. He told them there were no aircraft for 100 miles in their area.

On March 24th and in the first week of April, the Grasses found their fourth and fifth mutilated pregnant cows, cut up like the others except this time the udder was there minus four teats. Charlene Grass said, "They was cut out clean, leaving four neat holes. We couldn't even find the milk tubes."

Back in August 1975 when some Colorado sheriffs were getting two or three mutilation reports a day with bodies still warm to the touch, Colorado's Governor Richard Lamm said: "These mutilations are one of the greatest outrages in the history of the western cattle industry. It is no longer possible to blame predators for the mutilations."

Theories about who, what and why have shifted back and forth from predators to Satanic cults to government research to UFOs and extraterrestrials gathering a strange harvest. But so far, nothing's been proven.

One veterinarian in Wyoming who is afraid to speak publicly for fear his professional reputation will be tarnished said: "I never believed there was anything to the mutilations until I examined one cow near Carpenter (Wyoming). The eyeball, optic nerve and eye tissue were so thoroughly removed to clean bone that I still wonder how it was done."

Magpies, answer some. But what are the strange, hovering lights doing in those cow pastures?

END NOTES

In the Adelaide, Australia area in 1984, it was claimed that the military was covering up a speculated link between UFO sightings and "mutilated animal carcasses" found in the same area. The PERTH SUNDAY TIMES (7-15-84) reported: "UFO researchers claim the bizarre killings have been covered up by the military in a bid to quash a UFO scare in the area. In one incident, researchers say, a farmer discovered four cows with holes drilled into their skulls and the brains removed. According to the reports, farmers have been warned to "keep quiet". Other discoveries, researchers say, include egg-shaped "pod" marks near the property...Rocks in the pod holes were crushed, tree tops burnt and dozens of birds found dead nearby...Adelaide UFO researcher Mr. Collin Norris said he had been told to "drop off" after making inquiries into the sightings"-----For both of you who have asked whether Project Stigma might have some comment on Kagan and Summers: Our present policy is not to review works of fiction-----There may actually be more serious interest in mutilations in France than in the U.S. A group of French scientists have been gathering information on the subject for a long-term in-depth investigation and analysis of the events-----We were not confident that a recent (May 1985) ABC-TV "20-20" story on satanic cults would include much meaningful information on mutilations (it didn't) when the co-producer of the report called us to ask what we knew about "animal mutations". Actually, the Tom Jarriel report concentrated on the very real possibility that children may have been kidnapped and ritualistically slaughtered by cultists-----A retired Navy and National Security Agency operative told us in person that he became curious about mutilations a few years ago. So he made some discreet inquiries in Washington - Was there anything to it? What was it all about? He was only told something to the effect that it was "for real" and that it was something with which he should not concern himself - usually sufficient for a career military man to "take the hint".-----For future publication, we are compiling reports of the mutilation or mysterious deaths of rabbits (there are quite a few, some questionable but some most intriguing). Would appreciate any such reports from readers.-----We've been alerted to a case from the western U.S. in the mid-1970's wherein a ranch couple watched their horse rising up through a beam of light into a hovering disc-shaped object. The craft left and the horse was never seen again. Hopefully, more details will follow.-----Be on watch for the long-rumored Home Box Office UFO documentary. Much footage is already in the can (though they hit a snag when it came to the Rendlesham/Bentwaters case). May include some coverage of the South Dakota events outlined by Linda Howe (above)-----Seriously- there will be a rebuttal to Kagan & Summers, though it may take a while-----Space limitations prevented us from using much info this issue: the CBW report we mentioned last issue, more on mystery helicopters, El Austin's report. And - already lots of goings-on in 1985.